

DEPUTY MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION VISIT TO MLCC



Chong Ah Kow and Ahmad Ibrahim

6 November 2012 - The Honorable Dato' Hou Kok Chung, the Deputy Minister of Higher Education Malaysia made a visit to MLCC and was also accompanied by Senator Dato' Ng Fook Heng. They were given a cordial reception by Professor Dr Yuserrie Zainuddin, Assistant Vice Chancellor UMP (Student Affairs and Alumni); Professor Dr Abd. Jalil Borham, Dean of Centre for Modern Languages and Human Sciences; Chong Ah Kow, MLCC Coordinator; Abd Rahman Safie, Deputy Registrar; the volunteer teachers, Liu Xu, Yuan Jie, Zhang Cuicui and the committee members of the Inter-Varsity Mandarin Speaking Competition 2012. Dato' Dr. Hou was impressed by the initiative taken by UMP to set up MLCC in collaboration with Hebei University. It was his first visit to MLCC and he took the opportunity to give a belated welcome to the three volunteer teachers from Hebei University.

To mark the occasion, Dato' Hou Kok Chung kindly gave the opening speech at the Inter-Varsity Mandarin Speaking Competition 2012 held later on at the UMP Pavilion. He believed that learning a second language would not hinder one's patriotism towards his or her country. Hence, urged the audience to become bilingual speakers as it will enhance their capability to understand global demands. He concluded his speech by stating the benefits of learning Chinese language that is now the second most popular language next to English in terms of Internet usage and printed publications.

The competition was also attended by Dato' Alex Teh Boon Sing, the Executive Director of Nilaitex Sdn. Bhd.; Tan Kee Seng, the East Coast Manager of Sin Chew Daily; and Associate Professor Dr. Lim Tick Meng, from OUM. In this competition, a total of 46 participants from nine universities competed in three different categories. It included Category A: Mandarin for Chinese, Category B: Mandarin for Non-Chinese with Chinese language educational background and Category C: Mandarin for Non-Chinese without Chinese language educational background. Two UMP students excelled in both the non-Chinese categories in which the winners were Jamunaa Patchappan for Category B and Fazlin Zainal for Category C. Meanwhile, Tan Chi Wee from Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) put on a stellar performance and won Category A.

